

Application No.: 10/044,258
Amendment Dated: May 31, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: March 24, 2005

MTS-082US1

Remarks/Arguments:

By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claim 16. Claims 9-15, 17 and 18 are pending.

Claim Objections

Claim 16 is objected to on informal grounds as being a duplicate claim of claim 15. Applicants have therefore cancelled claim 16.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 9-18 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,392,700. By this Amendment, Applicants are including a Terminal Disclaimer thereby to overcome the basis for the double patenting rejection. With the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In a telephone conference between the Examiner and Applicants' counsel, Daniel N. Calder, on March 31, 2005, the Examiner indicated that if Applicants file a Terminal Disclaimer and also cancel claim 16, the application should be in condition for allowance.

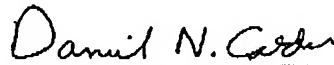
In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully

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submit that claims 9-15, 17, and 18 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424
Attorney for Applicants

DNC/dmw/fp

Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer

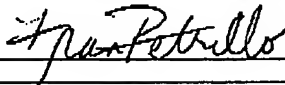
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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9306) on the date shown below.

May 31, 2005



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